

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 112206  
ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /010 R

DRAFTED BY EA-RHOLBROOKE:BCL  
APPROVED BY EA - RICHARD HOLBROOKE  
-----170018Z 029683 /14  
O 162252Z MAY 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 112206

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:CDES, PO

SUBJECT: CONDOLENCE MESSAGE FOR MRS. JAMES WICKEL

1. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING TO MRS. JAMES WICKEL.
2. I HAVE JUST LEARNED OF THE DEATH OF JIM, WHOM I KNEW AS BOTH A FRIEND AND MORE RECENTLY A COLLEAGUE. WHEN I WENT TO JAPAN IN 1972, JIM TOOK THE TIME OVER A LONG LUNCH TO TRY TO TEACH ME A LITTLE BIT ABOUT JAPAN, THAT REMOTE AND IMPORTANT COUNTRY WHICH HE KNEW SO WELL, AND I UNDERSTOOD SO LITTLE. MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE ON THAT TRIP, JIM TAUGHT ME HOW TO LOOK AT JAPAN. HE NEVER IMPARTED TO ME MORE THAN THE SMALLEST FRACTION OF WHAT HE KNEW, BUT THAT WAS UNDERSTANDABLE--FOR JIM KNEW MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE I HAVE EVER MET ABOUT JAPAN.

ALL OF THIS HE DID WITH SUCH GREAT GENTLENESS AND HUMOR, AND EVERY TIME I RETURNED TO TOKYO I SOUGHT HIM OUT FOR MORE COUNSEL AND ADVICE. THEN EARLY THIS YEAR I HAD MY FIRST CHANCE TO WORK WITH HIM, DURING THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO TOKYO. I SAW ANOTHER SIDE OF HIM--CAREFUL, PRECISE,  
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DOING A JOB FOR WHICH HE AND HE ALONE WAS QUALIFIED. THROUGHOUT THAT VISIT, AND DURING THE VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER

FUKUDA TO WASHINGTON IN MARCH, JIM WAS, AS ALWAYS, AN INDISPENSABLE PERSON.

IT WILL BECOME A CLICHE HERE AND IN TOKYO VERY SOON

TO SAY THAT WE WILL BE UNABLE TO DO OUR WORK WITHOUT JIM.  
THAT WILL BE TRUE. BUT I WILL ALSO MISS HIM AS A FRIEND,  
AS A UNIQUE WINDOW BETWEEN TWO CULTURES AND NATIONS THAT  
HAVE SEEN GREAT STRAINS BUT ARE GREAT FRIENDS.

I HOPE THAT YOU WILL LET ME KNOW IF THERE IS ANYTHING  
THAT I CAN DO TO BE OF HELP. RICHARD HOLBROOKE. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Subject:** CONDOLENCE MESSAGE FOR MRS. JAMES WICKEL  
**TAGS:** CDES, JA, (WICKEL, JAMES)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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